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An

Inaugural Essay

on

Icterus, or Jaundice.

Presented

To the Medical Faculty

of

The University of Pennsylvania.

For

The degree of Doctor of Medicine.

By

Martin Philips

of

South Carolina.

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Icterus presents a singular and striking peculiarity to the medical philosopher, and although farther advanced in this department of medical science than the ancients, the modern pathologist is still totally unable to unfold to us the proximate cause of this disease.

As the disease is usually presented to us it first appears by a yellowish tinge of the tunica conjunctiva, which gradually extends on every part of the body, involving as many affirm, the whole economy, — the secretions being coloured, some apart that even the milk is tinged; bones cartilages, and the whole internal organs bear the same livery.

It is ushered in with langour, depression of spirits, negligence of motion, sense of weight, or oppression in the praecordia, nearly always attended with a torpidity of the bowels, stools of an ash, white, or greyish colour, indicating absence of bile; urine scanty, of a saffron, or brown colour, tinging linen when dipped in it; sometimes attended with violent pain in the stomach, with nausea, and vomiting, pulse full and resisting, head affected with pain or fulness; more or less fever ensues, and cramps

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in extremities on motion.

The only necessary symptoms are the yellow tinge of the skin, want of bilious matter in the intestines, and an excess in the urine; but even these are liable to vary, for the tunica conjunctiva is at times only affected, cases are on record where only particular parts became coloured, one where only half of the body was tinged, and that so exact that only one half of the nose was coloured. The stools instead of indicating a deficiency of bilious fluid, have sometimes an excess of it, and are also laxative.

The vision we are told is affected, so that objects appear of a yellow colour; that this is sometimes the case we will not doubt, there is too much respectable authority to establish the truth of it. Dr Good relates an instance, in himself whilst a student, he says "The first suspicion I entertained of my being affected with jaundice was from the yellow tinge with which every object around me appeared to be arrayed". But many authors equally respectable declare that they have never met with a case of the kind although in the habit of making particular enquiries on this point, — others deny that it ever occurs; the vision is said to

be at times affected also with dimness, and may become double or inverted.

Except the difference in colour the black or green jaundice does not materially differ from that already laid down; it occurs oftener in men than women, & generally in the middle or advanced stage of life, though now and then even in the young it is slow in its progress, and not so violent. The three colours are to be found occasionally in the same individual. The disease when occurring from calculi, passing through the ducts is attended with pain about the pit of the stomach often extremely intense, circumscribed to a small part, "so small as to be covered with a finger", and attended by vomiting often very violent. The patient is unable to lie in the recumbent position, and will be found sitting up with the body bent forward.

In this way the disease continues for a greater or less space of time, and sometimes "ceases suddenly and spontaneously" owing to the passage of the calculus.

The patient will then remain quite free from pain or inconvenience, until another calculus is

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Of the numerous opinions with regard to the causes of the disease, that of absorption of the biliary fluid into the general circulation from obstruction in the ducts, or a disorganization of the liver is most prevalent. The diverse ways in which this obstruction is said to take place may be stated to be — 1st by mechanical pressure, 2nd by some affection of the ducts themselves, diminishing in size their calibre: under the first may be classed — A.- Gallstones, by datids, worms, and preternatural viscidity of the bile, which causes an obstruction internally — B. By external pressure, as from neighboring parts. Under the 2nd — inflammation of the coats of the ducts; and spasm.

There are innumerable other causes exciting the disease; not unfrequently it occurs from an injury done to some external part as bites of a snake, dog, cat, &c have produced it, "concussion from the explosion of a bomb" produced it almost instantaneously. Facts are not wanting to show that it is brought on, sometimes by violence done to the lining membrane of the stomach, arsenic for instance has been known to produce it, and ingesta are often, at least an

[illegible]

[illegible] Hysterical [illegible] [illegible] diacs, and criminals are found to be very susceptible to attacks of this disease, and also [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

prostrated; [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] effects

[illegible] the liver [illegible]

[illegible] frequently,

[illegible]

Attacks [illegible] yellow [illegible] fatal [illegible]

[illegible] frequent [illegible]

the pulse the disease [illegible]

this [illegible] green, or black [illegible] are

[illegible] When there exists [illegible]

[illegible] of dark [illegible]

and [illegible] doubtful. We may [illegible] predict [illegible]

the [illegible]

[illegible] "Certain [illegible]

discharges from the nose, or rectum, or [illegible], or [illegible] the

kidneys or bowels, [illegible] critical [illegible] the

disease [illegible] cases."

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

5th The lower and internal organs are [illegible] both
[illegible] in an derangement. [illegible]
[illegible] these secretions [illegible]
[illegible] is often an abundant [illegible]
[illegible] these there [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

graduate Dr Wadelle of Georgia

[illegible]

[illegible] pier-

[illegible] "[illegible] and thus [illegible] p

tons of jaundice are produced".

[illegible]

in the [illegible].

"If the jaundiced tone depended on the" [illegible] "the

bile, or" [illegible] "to" [illegible] to induce to

look [illegible] in a [illegible] these reasons [illegible] a different

[illegible] but [illegible] "[illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] induce [illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] a [illegible]

[illegible] shrunk, [illegible] with life; and [illegible] ceases"

here we have the result from a position of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

the correct pat[illegible] [illegible] permitted
[illegible] such [illegible]
[illegible] without being the right presumptuous.

The differ[illegible] [illegible] of
which we will [illegible] We do not think it
capable of explaining these [illegible] at [illegible]
others depending [illegible] occasion [illegible]
a thing [illegible] as [illegible] letter.
Those who have seen [illegible] examinations. This [illegible]
affirm [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible]
Hers and arrange the diseases and determine [illegible]
machos' philosophis. [illegible] found [illegible]
If the proximate cause was irritation of the stomach we would expect
to find it [illegible]

(That the disease [illegible] the stomach we
cannot [illegible] doubt, [illegible] excellent
[illegible] keeps in view ~~[illegible]~~ instances of [illegible]
[illegible] which came [illegible] the [illegible] as well
as the serous [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the nervous tissues

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Epilepsy – 1st [illegible] the nervous [illegible] reflexes of mind, [illegible] 2nd [illegible] [illegible] – all which are [illegible] the nervous tissues. 3rd [illegible] [illegible] 4th [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

are conclusive, or positive.

[illegible] although yellow [illegible] depends [illegible] necessarily [illegible] an inflammatory disease, yet [illegible] it may be paid to be somewhat analogous [illegible] post mortem examinations in this disease. [illegible] the gangliac plexus [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] not [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] are distinctly [illegible] in the head. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] and necessary.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

means of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

of aperient medicines under the impression of thus affording a substitute for the natural stimulus of the bile has been productive of serious inconvenience".

Many other remedies have been recommended, and not a few have met with merited neglect – in most cases few will even be wanted, and often a proper regulated diet will effect a more rapid cure, with less trouble to the physician, less expense and injury to the patient. Moderate exercise – on horseback preferable if health and strength will permit, – cheerful company and a proper regimen will very often effect more than the apothecary with a parade of all his drugs.

Not much need be said of the Black, or Green jaundice, all of our remedies should be addressed to making the patient as comfortable as practicable, palliatives are our only remedies "saline cathartics will palliate – but is incurable"

And lastly the "yellow gum" or jaundice of infants may generally be removed by a dose of castor oil, or some mild purgative. As a recurrence of the disease is not infrequent the patient should guard against all exciting causes.

During the past summer and autumn having had every facility afforded us of gaining medical knowledge not only from the 'Medical Institute', but also from the practice of the alms house, (the latter is due to the marked kindness of Drs. Nott & Shew their resident physicians) allowed to attend the resident physicians in their daily rounds through the wards, of watching the course of the disease, observing the impression of remedies - marking changes and different plans of treatment; also having several opportunities of seeing the difference in the issue of the plans of treatment now in vogue - disturbing & physiological - we must give our feeble testimony in favour of the latter, trials were often instituted, and to every appearance clearly in favour of this plan. - Reason appears to be in its favour and with such a judicious practitioner as Dr Samuel Jackson practice cannot fail of adding lustre to the "Brownsian plan of treatment".